

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

DATE: FRIDAY 13 JULY 2007

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **Award-winning School of Architecture building opens in Launceston**

The University of Tasmania's new School of Architecture and Design was officially opened today by His Excellency the Honourable William Cox, Governor of Tasmania.

The Head of the School of Architecture, Professor Roger Fay, said that the School's new \$6 million home at Inveresk set a benchmark for the University of Tasmania in sustainability and in providing comfortable, healthy work spaces for staff and students.

"It's appropriate that an architecture school be an innovative, exciting building," he said.

"Social responsibility and environmental sustainability are key values in the School of Architecture and Design and our building reflects these."

Professor Fay said the building was a working demonstration of an eco-friendly design and operation which provided a practical, satisfying work environment and "an outward expression of our teaching and research focuses".

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tasmania, Professor Daryl Le Grew, said that the collaboration between UTAS and the Launceston City Council to develop the Inveresk campus had led to a complex of which UTAS and Launceston could be proud.

"This small environmental footprint is part of the University's major commitment to Launceston," he said.

"It was always our ambition to house the School of Architecture and Design in an appropriate building. The School has grown significantly over the past five years in scale and prestige and now has a major international dimension."

The building - converted from a diesel locomotive shed in the heart of Launceston's old railyards - has already captured attention in architectural circles, winning design awards in heritage, sustainability and public architecture from the Tasmanian Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

The conversion provides 4000 sq/m of airy workspace, with an abundance of natural light and fresh air in summer from the original louvred windows in the saw-toothed roofs of the railyards shed – all computer operated.

Three original gantries designed to lift 36-ton locomotives also provide striking visual focal points in the new building.

The School of Architecture has 350 students, a third of whom are international enrolments.

The University is also negotiating with the Launceston City Council to relocate Australian School of Fine Furniture students from the Thyne Building, in central Launceston, to the Inveresk complex.

Professor Fay said the School hoped to further expand its range of courses in the future, by offering courses in interior and landscape design, both currently unavailable at university level in Tasmania.

The School of Architecture and Design was designed in collaboration by Melbourne architects SBE and Six Degrees. Engineering was by Engineering Solutions Tasmania.

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